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ABSTRACT

Stories of school desegregation are ultimately about people--teachers who work in the schools and the students who are there to learn. This book focuses on the front line teachers and their recollections of the effort to desegregate faculty in the Austin (TX) Independent School District during 1964-1971 in compliance with the "Brown v. Board of Education" Supreme Court ruling. This event had an enduring personal and professional impact on the Austin teachers and is here recounted in detail for the first time. The book focuses on the stories of Austin's few African American teachers who crossed over from their professional assignments in the still-segregated schools for African American youth to schools that, at the time, continued to enroll mainly white and Mexican American students. In its portrayal, however, the book does not obscure the experiences of the district's white teachers who crossed over to Anderson High School. The book is divided into the following chapters: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Social Construction of Race"; (3) "Oh, Do I Remember!"; (4) "Moving from the Shadows into the Sunlight"; (5) "With All Deliberate Slowness"; (6) "No White Missionaries Need Apply"; (7) "Death of a School"; (8) "Reflections and Memories"; and (9) "Creating Places of Engaged Listening." Each chapter includes endnotes. (Contains an extensive bibliography, with separate sections on books, articles, theses and essays, court cases, newspapers, periodicals, oral histories, papers and archival collections, and internet resources.) (BT)

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